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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/650,455	08/27/2003	Paul LaStayo	12218.2217 (12218.2200)	7131

20322 7590 03/22/2006

SNELL & WILMER
ONE ARIZONA CENTER
400 EAST VAN BUREN
PHOENIX, AZ 850040001

EXAMINER

RICHMAN, GLENN E

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3764

DATE MAILED: 03/22/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-10, 15, 16, 18-24, 46-58 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dean.

Dean disclose a frame (fig. 3), at least one support attached to said frame for supporting a user's body (fig. 3).

Dean does not specifically detail at least one engagement member attached to said frame for engaging at least one part of the user's body. However, as Dean does disclose at least one engagement member attached to the frame that a user exercises on. It would therefore be obvious to have the engagement attached directly to frame supporting a user's body, as these is the result achieved with Dean, and as no unexpected results are achieved there otherwise.

Dean further discloses said engagement member being moveable in opposite directions (col. 4, lines 50-58); means for supplying power to said engagement member such that said engagement member is capable of exerting a force in a first direction at a predetermined speed (abstract); means for detecting a change in said predetermined speed after the user supplies a force to said engagement member in a direction opposite said first direction (abstract); and means for adjusting output of the power supply means to maintain said predetermined speed (claim 3).

As for claims 2-10, Dean further disclose said at least one support comprises a seat (fig. 3), said seat comprises a recumbent seat (),said recumbent seat is adjustable (fig. 3),a support structure for the recumbent seat wherein the recumbent seat is attached to the support structure and the support structure is attached to the frame (fig. 3),said recumbent seat is positioned at an angle of about 15 degrees relative to a furthestmost position from the user of said at least one engagement means (fig. 3), said at least one engagement member comprises a bar press or a crossbar (fig. 3), comprises at least one of a pedal and a hand grip (fig. 3), at least one strap for securing a user's foot to said pedal and a user's hand to said hand grip (25), a drive mechanism powered by said power supply means, said drive mechanism being attached to said at least one engagement member to move said at least one engagement member in said first direction (col. 8, lines 35-58), said power supply means comprises a motor (col. 8, lines 35-58), a safety element which prevents full extension of at least one of a user's joints during operation of the apparatus (col. 6, lines 54 – et seq.).

Dean further disclose said at least one support comprises a recumbent seat, said at least one drive mechanism comprises a turn crank (fig. 3), said engagement member includes pedals for engaging a user's feet (fig. 3), and said safety element comprises a bar member positioned in front of said recumbent seat for maintaining a user's knees in a bent position while operating the apparatus said frame comprises a plurality of tubular shaped members (fig. 3), means for detecting a change in said predetermined speed comprises a sensor (col. 9, lines 1-10), said means for adjusting output of said power supply means to maintain said predetermined speed comprises a central processing

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unit which sends signals to a motor controller (14), display means for displaying at least one of a deceleration power, a time elapsed, a user's heart rate, and at least one of a number of revolutions per minute or reciprocating per minute (claim 2), a control panel for starting the apparatus, stopping the apparatus, and setting at least one of a timer, a speed, a performance goal, and a heart rate goal (claim 5).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 14 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Glenn Richman whose telephone number is 571-272-4981. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Greg Huson can be reached on 571-272-4887. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Glenn Richman', is positioned above the printed name.

Glenn Richman
Primary Examiner
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